

Please add the following new section heading on page 3, before line 29:

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace the heading on page 46, line 1, with the following amended subheading:

**CLAIMS What is claimed is:**

Please add new page, 49, submitted herewith containing the Abstract of the Disclosure.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (New): A cosmetic composition containing at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, characterized in that the side chains, at one branch point at least, are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin being obtainable by oligomerization of at least one of

- a) at least one branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms,
- b) at least one linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 10 carbon atoms,
- c) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, and
- d) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms,

in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

Claim 15 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises a total of 12 to 36 carbon atoms.

Claim 16 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises a total of 14 to 24 carbon atoms

Claim 17 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the branched

oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin resulting from the oligomerization is subsequently hydrogenated.

Claim 18 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein a mixture (c) of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 12 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 12 carbon atoms is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

Claim 19 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the linear  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-propene, 1-butene, 2-butene, 1-pentene and 2-pentene.

Claim 20 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein the branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

Claim 21 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 19, wherein the branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

Claim 22 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, wherein a mixture of 80% butene and 20% isobutene is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

Claim 23 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, in the form of a w/o or o/w emulsion.

Claim 24 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, comprising 0.1 to 100% by weight of oil components, based on the total quantity of oil components inclusive of the

at least one oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin.

Claim 25 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, comprising 1 to 50% by weight of oil components, based on the total quantity of oil components inclusive of the at least one oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin.

Claim 26 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, further comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of a surface-active substance or a mixture of surface-active substances.

Claim 27 (New): The cosmetic composition according to claim 14, further comprising at least one antiperspirant and/or deodorant active principle.

Claim 28 (New): An antiperspirant or deodorant composition comprising

- (i) at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, characterized in that the side chains, at one branch point at least, are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin being obtainable by oligomerization of at least one of
  - a) at least one branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms,
  - b) at least one linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 10 carbon atoms,
  - c) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, and
  - d) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms,in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts, and
- (ii) at least one antiperspirant or deodorant active principle.

Claim 29 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises a total of 12 to 36 carbon atoms.

Claim 30 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin resulting from the oligomerization is subsequently hydrogenated.

Claim 31 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein a mixture (c) of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 12 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 12 carbon atoms is oligomerized in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.

Claim 32 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein the linear  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 1-propene, 1-butene, 2-butene, 1-pentene and 2-pentene and the branched  $\alpha$ -olefin is selected from the group consisting of 2-ethyl-1-hexene, 2-propyl heptene, 2-methyl-1-butene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene or 4-methyl-1-pentene.

Claim 33 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, wherein the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin resulting from the oligomerization is subsequently hydrogenated.

Claim 34 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, in the form of a w/o or o/w emulsion.

Claim 35 (New): The antiperspirant or deodorant composition according to claim 28, further comprising 0.1 to 20% by weight of a surface-active substance or a mixture of surface-active substances.

Claim 36 (New): A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin, characterized in that the side chains, at one branch point at least, are ethyl, propyl or longer branched alkyl chains, the branched oligo- $\alpha$ -olefin being obtainable by

oligomerization of at least one of

- a) at least one branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 5 to 18 carbon atoms,
- b) at least one linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 10 carbon atoms,
- c) a mixture of a branched  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and a linear  $\alpha$ -olefin containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms, and
- d) a mixture of various branched  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 4 to 18 carbon atoms and linear  $\alpha$ -olefins containing 3 to 18 carbon atoms,

in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic acids, cationic ion exchangers, silica gels, layer silicates, inorganic acids or Lewis-acid-based catalysts.